

香港特別行政區政府
衛生署
社區聯絡部
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衛生防護中心



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
COMMUNITY LIAISON DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Centre for Health Protection,
147C Argyle Street, Kowloon.

本處檔號 OUR REF:

來函檔號 YOUR REF:

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17 April 2013

Dear Sir / Madam,

Latest Situation on Avian Influenza A(H7N9) Virus

Further to our letter dated 5 April 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9) virus.

As of 16 April 2013, 77 cases of human infection caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus have been reported by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) in Anhui Province (3 cases including 1 death), Beijing Municipality (1 case), Henan Province (2 cases), Jiangsu Province (20 cases including 2 deaths), Shanghai Municipality (30 cases including 11 deaths) and Zhejiang Province (21 cases including 2 deaths) since 31 March 2013.

According to the latest risk assessment by NHFPC, the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus is of avian origin and people are mainly infected through exposure to infected poultry or its contaminated environment. Hence, contact with infected poultry or visiting wet markets with live poultry are important risk factors of human infection caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus.

To prevent avian influenza, **avoid visiting wet markets with live poultry or contacting poultry especially when travelling to affected areas, always observe strict hand hygiene and avoid touching mouth, nose or eyes.** Wash hands frequently with liquid soap, especially before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing. In addition, the following measures are also advised:

- Avoid touching poultry, birds or their droppings, because infected poultry, birds or their droppings may carry the avian influenza virus;
- Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with poultry, birds or their droppings;
- Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing. Dispose sputum or secretions wrapped in tissue paper into rubbish bins with lids. Wash hands with liquid soap and water afterwards;

- Build up good body resistance and have a healthy lifestyle. This can be achieved through a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress and no smoking;
- Poultry and eggs should be thoroughly cooked before eating;
- Maintain good environmental hygiene;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Avoid crowded places with poor ventilation if feeling unwell;
- Seek medical advice if fever or respiratory symptoms develop; and
- For individuals with recent history of travel (especially to affected areas with avian influenza cases) and have contact with poultry or history of visiting wet markets with live poultry, they should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if they have flu-like symptoms, and inform the doctor of their exposure history.

To prevent avian influenza, we once again appeal to your organisation to join in our effort in organising health promotional activities, displaying posters and stickers, and disseminating booklets where appropriate to educate the public on the above preventive measures as well as update the latest outbreak situation by making reference to updated information on the Centre for Health Protection website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk>).

For more information on educational resources, please refer to the link (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/her_list/463/24/13.html). For copies of materials, please call Central Health Education Unit at 2572 1476.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr Anne Fung)
for Director of Health